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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, ""Rhapsody in Blue" to highlight UM concert" (1981). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 7222.
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MEDIA RELEASE

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11/30/81
Entertainer, w/pic

"RHAPSODY IN BLUE" TO HIGHLIGHT UM CONCERT

The University of Montana Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Thomas H. Cook, will present a free concert Friday, Dec. 11, at 8 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall on the UM campus.

The group will perform "Blue Lake Overture" by John Barnes Chance; Serenade No. 1 for Ten Wind Instruments by Vincent Persichetti; Scherzo Alla Marcia from Symphony No. 8 in D minor by Ralph Vaughan Williams; and "Children's March, Over the Hills and Far Away" by Percy Aldridge Grainger.

The original arrangement of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" will be performed by pianist Dennis Alexander with wind and percussion accompaniment. This work was first performed by the Paul Whiteman orchestra at a concert in New York's Aeolian Hall on Feb. 19, 1924. It was written for piano and jazz orchestra but is frequently heard in a transcribed form for piano and full orchestra.

Alexander received bachelor and master of music degrees in piano performance at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, where he subsequently served on the faculty. Since joining the UM faculty in 1972 he has performed extensively throughout the western United States, appearing with Australian violinist Christopher Kimber and Metropolitan Opera stars Cynthia Munzer and Frank Guarrera. He recently completed a tour of Texas with Walter Olivares, violinist at the UM and concertmaster of the Missoula Symphony Orchestra.

Alexander is an associate professor at the University of Montana.